



IDAHO DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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RECEIVED

AUG 23 1993

Cecil D. Andrus, Governor

August 19, 1993

IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE

Mr. Bert Doughty, Supervisor
Environmental Affairs
Post Office Box 62
Clayton, Idaho 83227-0062

Re: NPDES Permit: Cypress-Thompson Creek Project

Dear Bert:

This letter will confirm our telephone conversation on August 18th relative to the NPDES permit for Cypress-Thompson Creek Project. Last week I talked to Nickie Arnold of the EPA-Idaho Operations Office located in Boise, who confirmed that a draft permit for re-issuance and/or a new discharge (004) had not been provided to DEQ for review/comment nor had they requested DEQ to provide water quality certification. Until this office has an opportunity to review a draft of the proposed permit, certification is not possible.

It appears to us as though it may be several months before EPA will be able to issue/re-issue a permit which will include a discharge (004) to the Salmon River.

Be aware that we share your concern for the continuing decrease of storage capacity and beach area behind the tailings dam, and as indicated during our recent visit to the mine, have approved land disposal discharges on a one-time basis to address emergency situations. This may be worth considering even at this late date.

Should you wish to pursue this option or any other options you believe worthwhile for the short term, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Moran, Supervisor
Prevention and Certification

HLM/trw

cc: Walt Poole, IDHW/DEQ - CO
George Spinner, IDHW/DEQ - EIRO
Challis Field Office
✓ Nickie Arnold, USEPA-ID